

THE CLAIMS :

1. A leg-rope connection device including a housing which encloses a portion of the leg-rope, and at least one clamping member operatively associated with the housing, whereby said clamping member associates with the leg-rope in a manner such that said portion of the leg-rope is retained within the housing when subjected to typical forces applied to the leg-rope when in use.
2. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are two clamping members.
3. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein clamping members are rotatable with respect to the housing.
4. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 3, wherein the device is additionally provided with at least one tool member.
5. A leg-rope connection device including:
a leg-rope guide integrally formed within a housing;
a first arm member operatively associated with the housing, said first arm member able to be rotated about a first hinge;
a second arm member operatively associated with the housing, said second arm member able to be rotated about a second hinge;
first clamping means associated with the first arm member for retaining a first portion of a leg-rope within the leg-rope guide; and
second clamping means associated with the second arm member for retaining a second portion of the leg-rope within the leg-rope guide.
6. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the leg-rope guide is substantially semi-circular in cross-section.

10057356.012502

7. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in either claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the first clamping means are integrally formed as part of the first arm member and the second clamping means are integrally formed as part of the second arm member.
8. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 7, wherein the first clamping means and the second clamping means are at least partly contained on the internal surface of the leg-rope guide.
9. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 8, wherein the first arm member and the second arm member are identical but disposed at opposite ends of the housing.
10. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 9, wherein the first clamping means are at least one cleat, hump, tenon, lip, protrusion, sawtooth, wedge, angled surface, incline, pin, tapered member, spike, serration or the like which act to compress the first portion of the leg-rope when the first arm member is closed.
11. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 10, wherein the second clamping means are at least one cleat, hump, tenon, lip, protrusion, sawtooth, wedge, angled surface, incline, pin, tapered member, spike, serration or the like which act to compress the second portion of the leg-rope when the second arm member is closed.
12. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 11, wherein the first hinge and/or the second hinge mechanism is a pin or protrusion, ~~and, hole or recess arrangement.~~

13. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 12, wherein the first arm member holds a first tool member.

14. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 13,
5 wherein the second arm member holds a second tool member.

15. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in either claim 13 or claim 14, wherein either of the tool members is interchangeable with an alternate tool member.

10 16. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 15, wherein the tool member is a screwdriver, alan-key or blade.

15 17. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 16, wherein at least part of the device is manufactured from a rigid polymeric material.

18. A leg-rope connection device as claimed in any one of the claims 5 to 17, wherein any of the surfaces of the device can be provided with a textured, roughened, teathed, jagged, serrated or similar surface.

20 19. A method of repairing a broken leg-rope, including the steps of:
providing a leg-rope connection device;
inserting a first portion of the broken leg-rope into a first end of the leg-rope connection device;

25 inserting a second portion of the broken leg-rope into a second end of the leg-rope connection device;

30 closing a first clamping member operatively associated with a housing of the leg-rope connection device, whereby said first clamping member associates with the first portion of the broken leg-rope in a manner such that said first portion of the broken leg-rope is retained within the housing; and

40057356.042502

closing a second clamping member operatively associated with the housing of the leg-rope connection device, whereby said second clamping member associates with the second portion of the broken leg-rope in a manner such that said second portion of the broken leg-rope is retained within the housing.

5

20. A leg-rope connection device, substantially according to the embodiments contained within the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying figures.

10 21. A method of repairing a broken leg-rope, substantially according to the embodiments contained within the specification with reference to the accompanying figures.

15

10057356.012502